of similar categories in the health sector for improvement of pay allowances and promotion prospects of the employees and have nothing to do with the management of AIIMS.

(c) Does not arise in view of reply to (a) and (b) above.

**Dispute over acquisition of land for coal mining projects in ECL**

1310. SHRI SUNIL BASU RAY: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there were disputes over acquisition of land for coal mining projects in in Eastern Coalfields Limited;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) whether the disputes pertaining to the Raniganj sector of the company have since been settled; and

(d) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. UPENDRA): (a) to (d) Eastern Coalfields Ltd. have, of since 1980-81, sent 156 proposals for acquisition of 5551.862 acres of land under the L.A. Act and the State Act, to the West Bengal State Government who have constituted two site selection committees at subdivisional and district levels for examination before clearance by the State Government. Since the setting up of Site Selection Committees on 2-8-89, only two cases covered under proposal for Bansra (part) and Sonepur Bazari (part) projects have been settled in the Raniganj Sector of coalfields, although taking over of physical possession of land in case of Sonepur Bazari Project has not been possible because of resistence by the local people. The main dispute has been over the rehabilitation package which has been finalised, after discussion with the West Bengal State Government in the case of acquisition of land for Sonepur Bazari Opencast Project and orders in this regard have been issued on 31-5-90.

**Accidents in ECL collieries**

1311. SHRI SUNIL BASU RAY: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of subsidence accidents including fatal ones, have taken place in ECL collieries during the period from January to June, 1990; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. UPENDRA): (a) and (b) It has been reported by Eastern Coalfields Limited that no fatal accident has taken place in its collieries during the period January to June, 1990. Details of other accidents, if any, in ECL's collieries during this period due to subsidence are being collected and will be placed on the Table of the House.

**Supply of coal-mining machineries by British O.I.A.**

1312. SHRI SUNIL BASU RAY: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Govt. have entered into an agreement with British O.I.A. regarding supply of coal mining machinery;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) whether these machines are being used in the mines; and

(d) if so, what are the details thereof, including their effectiveness?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. UPENDRA): (a) and (b) The Govt. of U.K. have been providing grant assistance to the coal sector for import of goods and services of UK origin since 1975. The latest grant is for an amount of £ 31 million. Necessary agreement between the Govt. of India and the Govt. of U.K., allocating the coal sector grant of £ 31 million was signed in March, 1987. The U.K. assistance *inter-alia* covers Mine Planning and Designing, Operational assistance to the coal companies through technical experts, and Training of Indian experts in UK and India on mine mechanisation. In addition, the assistance also covers Transfer of British technology for manufacture of mining equipment through Indian Public Sector Undertakings like MAMC and Jessop & Co. who have collaboration arrangements with British manufacturers.

(c) and (d) So far 12 Powered Support Longwall equipment sets have been introduced in the underground mines of CIL and SCCL with British assistance as under:

5 sets in Moonidih (Bharat Coking Coal Ltd.) one each at Seetalpur and Dhemomain (Eastern Coalfields Ltd.) one at Pathakhera (Western Coalfields Ltd); one at Churcha West (South Eastern Coalfields Ltd.) one each at JK-5, GDK-7/9 and VK-7 (Singareni Collieries Company Ltd.). The rated capacity of all these 12 longwall sets is 16000 tonnes per day of coal production. During 1989-90 the overall performance of the 9 operating sets, excluding 3 sets under repair, maintenance and shifting, was about 60% of the rated capacity.

**Kayamkulam Thermal Power Project**

1313. SHRI E. BALANANDAN: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the proposed Kayamkulam Thermal Power Project, which has been included in the Indo-Soviet agreement for foreign aid, has been given green signal by the Environment Department and the Public Investment Board; and

(b) if not, what are the reasons for the delay?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. UPENDRA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) The matter is under consideration.

**Development of Calicut and Cochin Airports**

1314. SHRI E. BALANANDAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Calicut airport is being grossly underutilised and that Cochin airport is not being developed; and

(b) if so, what are the scheme contemplated for the development of these two airports?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. UPENDRA): (a) and (b) Calicut airport is being used by Indian Airlines and Vayudoot. Indian Airlines are operating a daily Bombay-Calicut-Bombay flight. Vayudoot are operating thrice a weak service through Trivandrum-Madras and Bangalore. The number of flights can be increased provided aircraft capacity becomes available.

Various options, including extending the main runway and strengthening the same for airbus operations, realignment of the secondary runway presently used for naval operations; and construction of a